

Response under 37 CFR 1.116 (Expedited Procedure)

Serial No.: 09/955,371

Examiner: Puneet Bhandari

In the claims:

Claims 1-24 (canceled)

25 (currently amended). A communication network, the network comprising:

a plurality of first nodes having no actual routing capability;

a plurality of bridges, said plurality of bridges including said plurality of first nodes;

a second node having an actual routing capability; and

at least one interconnection between each first node and said second node,

wherein each first node interacts with said second node over said at least one interconnection between said first node and said second node to provide an emulated routing capability to said first node.

Claim 26 (canceled).

Claim 27 (canceled).

28 (currently amended). The communication network as recited in claims ~~26~~ 25, wherein said plurality of bridges are MPLS-enabled bridges.

29 (previously presented). An L2/L3 network comprising:

a plurality of bridges, said plurality of bridges having a plurality of first nodes, said plurality of first nodes have not actual routing capability,

an external router, said external router having a plurality of nodes, each of said plurality of nodes of said router having actual routing capability;

at least one interconnection between said plurality of nodes of said external router and said plurality of first nodes of said plurality of bridges; and

wherein each of said plurality of nodes of said external router interacts with said plurality of first nodes over said at least one interconnection to provide an emulated routing capability to said first node.

134067 (45591/SAH/X2)

Page 2